

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95825

[www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov)

(916) 263-6000 Fax (916) 263-6042

**Postmortem Examination Review Summary #208**

Horse Information: 5-year-old Thoroughbred.

Incident Summary: This horse galloped routinely during morning training then spooked, unseated the exercise rider, and ran off. The horse collided with a steel gate post while attempting to exit the track. The horse was down on the track and did not move its hind limbs. The horse was treated with methylprednisolone sodium succinate then euthanized with pentobarbital. The horse was insured.

Necropsy Summary: A necropsy examination revealed displaced fractures of the thoracic vertebrae and ribs of the right ribcage (Th6-8) due to a traumatic event.

Racing/Training History: This horse had over 5 race starts and a trainer change.

Veterinary History Summary: Two days prior to the final race the horse was treated with Adequan, phenylbutazone, estrone sulfate, and GastroGard. After the race the horse was treated with oxytetracycline and vitamins. On occasion the horse was treated with acepromazine to train and Synchill was dispensed.

Pre-race Examinations: Pre-race examinations had noted left forelimb lateral suspensory ligament branch enlargement, exostosis of the carpi, and a decreased range of motion in both front fetlock joints.

Conclusion: This horse got loose on the track and sustained traumatic thoracic vertebrae fractures while attempting to exit the track. Catching loose horses is an important skill that not all outriders are able to demonstrate. The trainer recommends outriders be required to pass a physical fitness exam. This is in line with San Diego County's requirements for Mounted Patrol unit members ([www.sdsheriff.gov/recruitment/mounted-patrol-unit](http://www.sdsheriff.gov/recruitment/mounted-patrol-unit)). In addition, a mounted training program and/or test should be considered. The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Regulations require that outriders complete at least 2 hours of continuing education training delivered locally on an annual basis. If racetracks are not going to develop outrider protocol training programs, then the CHRB should develop such a program to improve human and equine safety.